

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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### HINCHEY AND COLLEAGUES PROPOSE FUEL CELL TAX CREDIT

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) and U.S. Representative Nancy Johnson (R-CT) at a press conference to introduce legislation that provides a tax credit for the purchase of a stationary fuel cell, a revolutionary, clean-energy technology that would help decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil and natural gas.

"Any serious national energy plan must focus on reducing our energy demand," said Hinchey. "Instead of despoiling national treasures like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and other protected federal lands for natural gas, we should be creating incentives to implement energy-efficient technologies like fuel cells."

A fuel cell is a device that uses any hydrogen-rich fuel to generate electricity and thermal energy through an electrochemical process at high efficiency and near zero emissions. The legislation introduced in the House and Senate today would create a \$1,000 per kilowatt tax credit for purchasers of all types and sizes of stationary fuel cell systems. The credit is intended to create an incentive for prospective customers, thereby increasing volume and reducing manufacturing costs. It would be available for five years, January 1, 2002 - December 31, 2006, after which time fuel cell manufacturers should be able to produce a product at market entry cost.

"Fuel cells provide one of the cleanest and most energy-efficient means of converting fuels into electricity," Hinchey added. "We need to accelerate production of these systems so that more customers will have access to them now."

The Senate bill was introduced by Lieberman while the House version was introduced by Johnson. Hinchey is an original cosponsor of the House bill.

For digital pictures of today's press conference in Washington, please call Kevin O'Connell at 202-225-6335.